

Safety Alert



LMTV Troop Safety Alert SA05-004



When we think of our personal safety we rarely think that the equipment we routinely use can cause us harm. As some personnel have learned, quite painfully, Army equipment can be unforgiving and can cause harm when not used appropriately.

This week, a 4ID Soldier lost the tip of a finger when he jumped out the back of an LMTV without using the ladder. His finger was caught on a wire rope that is near the handle and secures the troop seat locking pin (See Photos). As the Soldier's body came to rest on the ground, his finger could no longer support the weight. The result of this indiscipline was a severely lacerated finger that required surgery to remove the damaged end. This hazard is present on all LMTVs and requires situational awareness by the operators and passengers.

As with all hazards, there are ways to mitigate them:

1. The driver is responsible to lower the tailgate and place the ladder correctly. This and additional responsibilities are listed in AR 385-55.
2. Place a spotter when troops are mounting or dismounting.
3. Ensure that the ladder is free of mud, ice, or other debris.
4. Never climb over the sides or jump down from the LMTV.
5. Wear gloves when working with your hands.
6. Tape or wire the "wire rope" to the side away from the handle. Do not cut the wire rope.

